Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide having root transcriptional factor activity comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
   (a) a polynucleotide having at least 97.5% sequence identity, as determined by the GAP algorithm under default parameters, across the full length of a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1;
   (b) a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
   (c) a polynucleotide which is complementary to a polynucleotide of (a) or (b).

2. (Previously presented) A recombinant expression cassette, comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 operably linked, in sense or anti-sense orientation, to a promoter.

3. (Currently amended) A plant host cell comprising the recombinant expression cassette of claim 2.

4. (Previously presented) A transgenic plant comprising the recombinant expression cassette of claim 2.

5. (Original) The transgenic plant of claim 4, wherein said plant is a monocot.

6. (Original) The transgenic plant of claim 4, wherein said plant is selected from the group consisting of: maize, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, and millet.

7. (Original) A transgenic seed from the transgenic plant of claim 4.

8. (Currently amended) A method of modulating the level of a nitrate-responsive root transcriptional factor in a plant, comprising:
(a) introducing into a plant cell a recombinant expression cassette comprising the polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having root transcriptional factor activity of claim 1 operably linked to a promoter;
(b) culturing the plant cell under plant cell growing conditions;
(c) regenerating a plant from said plant cell; and
(d) inducing expression of said polynucleotide for a time sufficient to modulate the level of nitrate-responsive root transcriptional factor in said plant.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said plant is maize.

10. (Cancelled)